

Building resilience through regional collaboration and partnerships

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The increased frequency and severity of disasters caused by our changing climate is creating an uncertain future, making it necessary to prepare communities for the unprecedented. Being 'future ready' requires us to find innovative ways for disaster resilience to be embedded into daily life as part of business-as-usual, rather than a separate action for disaster managers.

Regional collaboration and partnerships are key strategies being undertaken by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to strengthen community resilience now and into the future. The QRA is partnering with local governments to develop regional resilience strategies through a process that is state facilitated and locally led. The Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy was the first pilot project delivered in 2017, with a further three pilots now underway to overcome a range of issues including multi-hazards and persistent drought.

The strategies are informed through a co-design process that respects local knowledge and wisdom, and empowers local leadership to determine key priorities for each region. The strategies focus on connecting people across government boundaries and professional disciplines as a means of identifying shared solutions to common problems that can be implemented over time.

In 2016, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority undertook extensive consultation with local governments throughout Queensland to hear the challenges they face in managing flood risk. Key challenges raised include risk intelligence, community resilience, land-use planning and building controls, environmental management and disaster management. This work was the catalyst for a new delivery model for increasing disaster resilience at the local level as demonstrated through the regional resilience strategy pilot projects.